



# New England StatNet Holds Meeting on Inspectional Services

Next Meeting Will Be on May 6 and Will Focus on Public Works

New England StatNet held its winter meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at the Worcester Public Library. The topic of the meeting was data and performance management in municipal inspectional services, and it was attended by approximately 100 city and town managers, building commissioners and inspectors, health directors, and other state and local officials.

Topics discussed at the meeting included: inspectional services staffing, organization, workload, training, fees, and revenue; cross-departmental teams addressing problem properties; and performance measures in inspectional services. In addition, the Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance (A&F) led a panel on municipal experiences with online permitting, and case studies were presented by officials from the cities of Lowell and Malden. Initial feedback from attendees provided through the follow-up survey has been very positive, with attendees citing a large number of practical takeaways from the meeting.

StatNet is a network of municipal officials interested in improving their use of data in management and policymaking. Coordinated by the Collins Center, StatNet participants learn from each other about best practices in municipal performance management and operations. StatNet holds three meetings per year focused on different areas of municipal government, such as public works, police, fire, budget, IT, or inspectional services. StatNet also hosts an annual conference to train municipal officials on the use of data and performance management in municipal government. Participants represent municipalities of all sizes from across the Northeast.

Further information about the subtopics of the May meeting on public works will be available in early April. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like to RSVP, please do not hesitate to contact StatNet Coordinator Amy Dain at [Amy.Dain@umb.edu](mailto:Amy.Dain@umb.edu).

Thanks to funding from the Patrick-Murray Administration's Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) Grant Program included in the Municipal Performance Management Program, StatNet participation has been free for Massachusetts municipalities since October 2012.

Additionally, through funding from a second CIC Grant, the Somerville Public Schools – in partnership with three other school districts, the Collins Center, and several other organizations – is running School StatNet, which is a parallel initiative focused on data and performance management in Massachusetts school districts. For more information, please contact Stephanie Hirsch at Hirsch, Stephanie [shirsch@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:shirsch@k12.somerville.ma.us).